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FLOOR DEBATE

February 7, 2001 LB 25

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just rise to support the bill. This has been worked on for a couple years and...in our Health Committee and I think we've come to a good compromise that will work. I did, however, want to comment on Senator Chambers' comments. I spoke a year ago to the optometrists and you'll recall that after many years we did allow optometrists to treat glaucoma, and as they might move further down the body and as the podiatrists move further up the body, I predicted by 2025 they would meet at the belly button and we could take care of everything. And...and then I did want to inquire of Senator Chambers on his drawing, is this "Pandora" or is this "Pandon"? Seems to be a rather muscular person for some women. Anyway, I appreciate his drawing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would stand in favor of the bill also. We do need the amendment and I think probably there's a committee amendment coming forth also. The Nebraska Medical Association has, with amendments, changed their position to be in favor of the bill. There are 30-some states that now are allowing this type of surgery. We don't want to forget that no surgery can be performed in Nebraska hospitals without these podiatrists being certified by the hospital, and typically that takes a review of another physician, another surgeon. And so I don't think there's a safety issue involved here anymore. I feel very comfortable with recommending the passage of this bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, to comment on Senator Redfield's statement, part of the problem that podiatrists are running into are dealing with diabetics. If they're treating a foot for an ulcer and that ulcer is just above the foot on the ankle, they can't treat that. That seems...when they're treating ulcers on the lower part of the foot, it would seem to me that they could have the ability to...to treat ulcers on the ankle as well, and it sometimes hamstrings them, no pun intended, to keep from